

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home

Thursday, December 20. 1705.

THIS Paper has been long enough Addressing, sometimes to one, sometimes to another; and the Author is thankful that his Pains that way has not been like Water cast into the Sea, but have been acknowledged in many Places to be more useful than he expected; particularly, he humbly thanks some of our angry Gentlemen, that they have permitted their Passions to give Testimony to the Usefulness of this Paper; That the Threatnings, the Sham-actions, and some real Ones, the malicious Prosecutions, and a thousand miserable Methods to ruin and destroy the Author, have been so many standing Testimonies of the Good this Paper and its Despis'd Author have done in the Affair of the Publick Peace.

Whatever becomes of the Author, he rejoices in having been guilty of Nothing, but perswading Mankind to that alone

which is their true Interest, always was so, ever will be so, and which God Almighty seems now to be opening their Eyes to see.

It cannot but make me smile, tho' I have as few Occasions of Mirth as any Man living, to find my self alarm'd with Letters from several People, and some of my Well-wishers, about a late Review, No.... which, as they say, ill Treats my Lord P———*gb*, and Charges his Lordship with sending us a false Account of things; nay, say they, it abuses the King of *Spain*, and at last the Queen too: and abundance of People have taken Copies of Paragraphs out of the *Review*, which I suppose they have laid up in Lavender, or rather in Pickle to lash me with, when perhaps they think I may compliment those Gentlemen with another Double Welcome.

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I can think of no better Advice to those People, than to desire them to remember how in a late Book, *unhappy only to its Author*, but otherwise every word true and just, call'd, *The shortest Way*, &c. The poor Author was a great while, call'd hard Names on every side, by one sort of People, because they did understand him, and by another because they did not understand him; the latter part soon came to themselves, upon a little reading and conning the thing over again, and comparing it with the Times——The same Cure I humbly recommend to these Gentlemen, that think that *Review* sets *Daniel* against *de Foe*, and contradicts himself, or affronts the Earl of P——gh.

And now, Gentlemen, let me make one very hazardous Attempt, *at least to myself*; for many People are mighty willing to be angry with me, and fond of any thing they can call a Cause.

This Paper has applied it self first to the Freeholders and Electors, then to the Candidates, then to the Parliament, then to the Convocation, very often to the High Church, and all for Peace; all to encline them to yield every one a little, as far as they can to one another, to enlarge their Charity, and struggle for Peace.

And now, Gentlemen, I come to say a Word or two to the *Dissenters* upon this Head. *Thou wast altogether born in Sin*, said the *Jews* to the blind Man, *And dost thou Teach us?* and they cast him out; and yet the poor Man was in the right too, all he said was true, and the Admonition he gave them very Just.

If I am serv'd in the same manner, Gentlemen, I cannot help it; I cannot say for you, that there is no occasion to speak, that you need no Exhortation to Peace and Union——I have earnestly Defended you from the scandalous Aspersions of pulling down the Church, and I think prov'd, that it is not only not in your Design, but can be your Interest——I have offered to advance, that if it were in your Power to choose a King for this Nation, you would choose him not from among your selves, but from the moderate Church of *England*——And that you are entirely

easy, and satisfy'd with the present Government in that State, and with the Toleration as establish'd, That tho' there may be something you wish to have regulated as to Sacramental Tests, and the like; yet that you acquiesce as it is, for the sake of the other Liberties you enjoy; That if the Church of *England* would condescend to an Abatement, a great many of you, *even all that with any Satisfaction could*, would rejoin you; that the Matters of Ceremony and Discipline once with Charity debated, and due Condescensions made, would bring many of the *Dissenters* to comply.

I have met with no Obstruction in this Case, but from two petulant Gentlemen, whose Letters one in *Latin* one in *English*, I presume they knew merited no Answer, since they did not think it worth while to direct how it might be sent.

But after all, Gentlemen, I have never said that there is nothing remains to be added, no Address to be made to you, nothing to exhort you to; and how you will be pleased to bear it from me, I know not. But as I have profess'd my self at full Liberty to say all needful Truths, and declar'd I will restrain my self in nothing that this Work of Peace and Truth calls either for Favour or Fear; so I shall take all that Liberty, *with respect*, that I think this Case calls for, without regard to Person or Party, Interest, Prejudice, or Consequence as to my self.

You have seen, Gentlemen, the Victory, Truth and Peace have obtain'd under the happy Conduct of the Queen, over the dangerous Experiments of a Party, who together with being your Enemies, have shown themselves the whole Nation's Enemies.

Nor can I forget to tell you, Gentlemen, it has been very well for you they have been the Nation's Enemies; had they had any Temper, any Conduct, any Policy, they had adjourn'd this happy Peace a great way farther off: To say no more, God in his infinite Mercy to this Nation, has cast such Mists upon their Understandings, that, like the *Levellers of Sodom*, they Grope for the Door; the Darkness from Heaven which fell upon their Judgments, caused them first to lay
Stumbling

Scumbling Blocks in their own way, and then to fall over them, and break the Neck of their own Party, untwist and tangle the Skein of their own Contrivances; bewilder and Noose themselves, and fall under the weight of their own Managements, into the same Mischiefs they design'd for others.

You have seen this Party broke; the Unanimity of the Lords and Commons has struck them Dead; the Cry they rais'd of the Danger of the Church, in which I readily allow you were the Victims aim'd at; you were the Sacrifice to be offer'd up, to Appease the Angry Powers that Threatned the Church——This Cry is abated like the Summer Bird, whose Impertinent Note is always the same; 'tis grown Hoarse, and has lost the Throat. 'Tis plain, the Church is in no Danger; and all those Gentlemen, that have so publicly advanc'd that Scandalous Assertion, will like Justice Cl——'s, in the Gazetts, set their hands to it quickly; that it was a groundless Report, and ask God and the Church Pardon.

You have seen Her Majesty Declaring, even beyond your Expectation, That it is her Royal and fixt Resolution to Maintain, and that inviolably, the Toleration; *Exeunt, Occasional Bills, Dangerous Experiments, Memorials, &c.*

You have seen the Violent Ungovernable Enemies, of this Publick Tranquility in general Discourag'd, Discountenanc'd, Displac'd; and Her Majesty has Declar'd, in her late most Gracious Speech to the Nation, *for such I call Speeches in Parliament*, that those shall partake of her Royal Favour, who are most forward in this Healing Work of P E A C E.

Again, Gentlemen, you have the Honour, to have Her Majesty Declare, that this Peace and Agreement at Home, which is so pleasing to you in particular, is the only way to secure the Tranquility and Prosperity of this Nation, both at Home and Abroad And to procure us Success and Victory Abroad; I call this an Honour, because 'tis an Honour to you as a Party, that the only thing you Crav'd, and indeed wanted, was so Correspondent with the Gene-

ral Good, that whenever proper Measures are taken for the Publick Good, the *Dis-senters* Desires, are by Consequence Answer'd.

'Tis doubtless an Honour to a Party of Men, who have been hitherto Esteem'd as *Malecontents*, that the Demands they make, Chime in so Naturally with the General Good; that when a Rectifi'd Judgment comes to Govern the Publick Affairs, in quest of proper Measures for that Good, those Demands come to be Granted of Course.

You have in these Wise Measures of the Government, a real Victory, as I may call it; all that Persecution, you Complain'd of in former Reigns, has been Condemn'd as Heterodox and Unchristian, even by that very Church that Persecuted you; and is Buried in a Legal and Parliamentary Toleration.

All the Attempts made upon this Toleration, either to Overthrow or Enervate it, either to dissolve it in Form or Effect, are blown up by their own Powder; they are fallen like *Dagon* before the Ark of God——They are Fallen, are Fallen; and if your own Sins or Misbehaviour, do not, as I hope they will not, give Reason to revive them, will never rise more.

You have farther seen, Gentlemen, that the Church of *England*, as a Church, and Abstracted from the Influence and Conduct of Degenerate Princes, Powerful Parties, and other Unhappy Byassing Circumstances; is not in its Nature and Constitution Enclin'd to Persecute you, or render you Uneasie, but is willing and content you should Enjoy that Liberty of Conscience you desire, and which the Law has, *with her Consent*, Establish'd.

You have seen all these things, I hope, very much to your Satisfaction; and I doubt not, but you will in Time see this Nation once again Prosper, under the Government and Powerful Influence of P E A C E.

As I have premis'd all these things, rather to Present them to the World thus Collected, than to call them to your Mind,

for I hope you never forget them, nor will foret to Instruct your Posterity, in the Sence and Remembrance of them; so Gentlemen, I am a most Earnest and Humble Petitioner, to the whole Body of *Dissenters in England*, in the Consequence of all this Matter, to accept from me but one short Word of Advice.

My Exhortations shall all be as Concise as possible, for I know Mankind does not Love Importunities, they are not easie to be too much Directed; and it may be, may not think me Qualifi'd to Instruct them; and so may be prejudic'd against it that way.

But be that as it will, my Humble and short Advice, to the whole Body of the *Dissenters* in this Nation, is Comprehended in one Word,

BE CONTENT.

I shall Enlarge upon the Word in my next, 'tis an Extensive Capacious thing, and has in it more Meaning than can be easily Express'd; I shall only go on to tell you what I mean by it, let others mean what they will, my Meaning is Plain and Honest; whether it may Please or no I know not, nor am I very Solicitous about that.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS a Book, intituled, *The Art of Painting, and the Lives of the Painters, &c.* Translated from Monsieur De Lisle, with Additions of the English School, was design'd to be Publish'd the last Term; the Editors having been oblig'd to stay for some Memoirs relating to the Additions, longer than was expected, desire further time to the middle of January next, when the whole shall be completed and ready to be deliver'd by John Nutt near Stationers Hall.

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